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THE

LIFE and ADVENTURES

OF THE

PRINCE of SALERMO.


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THE HISTORY OF THE

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THE
LIFE and ADVENTURES
OF THE
PRINCE of SALERMO:

CONTAINING

An Account of his Adventures at Venice, and in Hungary; his captivity at Damas, and amour with an Ottoman Princess, together with his return to Italy: with many entertaining descriptions of the Laws, Customs and Manners of the several Countries, through which he travelled.

BY

THE MARQUIS DE VERE,
A VENETIAN NOBLEMAN. K

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ROSON, N^o. 54 St. Martin's
Le-Grand.

M. DCC. LXX.

Life and Adventures

of the

PRINCE OF SALLERNO

CONTEMPORARY

An Account of his Adventures at 7 years, and in
Happily; his captivity at Palermo and escape
with an Ottoman vessel, together with his
return to Italy, his marriage, and his
travels of the last 40 years of his life.



THE MARQUIS DE VARE

A VENETIAN NOVEL

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Lane, and
J. C. 1753.

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THE

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THE
PRINCE OF SALERMO.



CHAP. I.

THE kingdom of Naples is one of the finest countries in the universe; the fertility of its soil, the conveniency of its harbours, and advantageous situation, occasion such plenty, that it was not without reason the antients called it *the kingdom of delights*.

The

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The Spaniards, when masters of it, after having recourse to all sorts of rigorous expedients to reconcile the people to their conquest and new governors, could not find a more certain method to insure themselves of its possession, than to marry the heads of the most considerable families in the kingdom with Spanish ladies, who were so many hostages for the fidelity of their husbands.

During the time that the Duke of Birona governed as Viceroy in that kingdom, he by his integrity and disinterestedness had acquired the affection and esteem of all the nobility and gentry, and the universal approbation of all Italy ; and, without deviating from the general maxims of the Spanish policy,

cy, took care to soften the rigours of it in such a manner, that they never perceived any violence in the execution of his orders. A conduct, so different from that of his predecessors, so effectually won the hearts, and secured the affections of all the Neapolitans, that he gained their universal approbation, and they shewed him as much respect and attachment as if he had been their sovereign.

The old Prince of Salerno dying about the time, and fearing with reason that the Spaniards would oblige the young Prince his son, who was then about twenty years old, to marry one of their nation, without any other portion than the protection of her parents; and finding no other means to avoid it, en-

treated the Viceroy to take him and the Princess Julia his sister under his tuition and protection. The Duke, touched with this mark of confidence, answered him with the greatest tenderness and generosity, and having accepted of this weighty charge, took as much care of his two pupils, as if they had been his own children.

The young Prince was well made, extremely handsome, had a great deal of natural wit, understood several languages, and excelled in all sorts of exercises. The Viceroy took so much pleasure in him, that scarce a day passed that he did not go to see him ride; and in short was so pleased with his many great qualities, that he resolved to marry him to Donna Catalina,

his

his only daughter, who was one of the richest heiresses in Europe, and with whom several Princes had already sought an alliance: he resolved at the same time to marry the Princess Julia to his nephew Don Louis de Gusman, who was then general of the horse at Naples.

The Prince, being informed of a resolution so advantageous to him, assured the Viceroy, that he should ever retain the most perfect and grateful remembrance of his favours; but the Princess Julia, who was one of the greatest beauties in Italy, was not so condescending as her brother: she had a natural aversion to the Spaniards, which she had hitherto with difficulty concealed; but she dissembled her antipathy no longer, when she understood

stood they had designed her for a Cavalier of that nation.

Her friends took the greatest care to prevent the knowledge of her aversion from coming to the Viceroy, fearing it might induce him to alter his design, and that they might be thereby disappointed of the great advantages which were likely to arise to the house of Salerno from this double marriage. All arguments were made to persuade the young Princess to comply ; and they at length demonstrated to her so strongly how she would ruin her brother and all the family by her refusal, that, without feeling any alteration of sentiment, she consented to sacrifice herself for the sake of her brother,

brother, whom she most tenderly loved.

The Prince, who sought all opportunities to convince the Viceroy how perfectly sensible he was of the honour he had done him in chusing him for his son in law, prepared to go express to Spain to make his addreses to his intended lady, but the Viceroy opposed it, assuring him, that he would fourthwith have her brought to Naples, and that he should take care to acquaint him when it should be time to go and meet her. In the mean time Don Louis, charmed with the exquisite beauty of the Princess Julia, lost no opportunity of being where he might see her; and the care the princess took to avoid him, only served to increase his desires.

The

The Viceroy being informed of his nephew's violent passion for the Princess, determined to spare the anguish of a long delay ; and after having concerted measures with the Prince of Salerno, they agreed to prepare for celebrating the nuptials of Don Louis and the Princess Julia with all possible magnificence. On this occasion it was judged more convenient to have the ceremony performed at a castle of the Prince's on the sea coast, six miles from Naples, and to return the day following to the Viceroy's, who was to remain in town on purpose to prepare diversions that he proposed giving on the occasion, and which were intended to last several days.

This

This resolution being taken, the Prince made the necessary preparations at his castle for the reception of the two lovers, with the several persons of quality who accompanied them. Don Louis came with all the ardency and impatience of a passionate lover, who was on the eve of possessing one of the finest women upon Earth, and the Princess with all the agony and despair of a person going to be delivered up to the embraces of a man whom her heart informed her she could never love. Several tables were covered with the greatest splendor and magnificence, and the company were just on the point of entering into an adjoining chapel, where the lovers were to join their hands, when suddenly a great noise of armed men alarmed the august and brilliant

B 5

assembly,

assembly, and discomposed their festival. Some turkish Rovers, who had approached the coast with a design of getting some slaves, understanding by means of some fishermen (whom a storm had driven out to sea) that there was to be on the day following a grand entertainment in the Prince of Salerno's castle, they, concluding that they might make a considerable booty, and being confirmed in this opinion by several other particulars which they learned of the fishermen, put fifty of their most resolute men well armed into a boat, and being piloted by the Neapolitan fishermen, landed a little before midnight close to the castle; entered sword in hand, and killed, at the first onset, all they met, without regarding age or sex, which so terrified the domesticks, that the most part of them
ran

ran away. Don Louis and the other Cavaliers, who happened to be near the ladies, put themselves in a posture of defence, thinking to make a resistance; but Don Louis having his head cut off with a blow of a scymeter, the major part of those who seconded him soon shared the same fate. The Prince of Salerno was already dangerously wounded; and, notwithstanding he fought with amazing valour and resolution, he must have fallen with the rest, had it not been for the timely assistance of a gentleman who had formerly been his tutor, and who in this exigency flew to his rescue, at the peril of his own life, and carried him away by force from the dangers that surrounded him, whilst the Moors continued ransacking all before them. However, their
ap-

apprehensions of being cut off in their retreat, obliged them to make off with the utmost precipitation after pillaging the castle of all its most valuable effects.

CHAP

C H A P. II.

THE Viceroy, being informed of this most melancholy event, dispatched two gallies to pursue the Rovers, and a strong party of horse to cut them off, if possible, in their retreat. He afterwards set out himself, attended by a numerous train of nobility, to learn what was going on at the castle, where, having entered, he beheld a most horrid spectacle of his kill'd and wounded friends. Don Louis, whom he discovered among the dead bodies, affected him to such a degree, that he had not strength

strength to support himself. His grief however did not prevent his making careful inquiries after the Prince of Salerno, and the Princess Julia, tho' without being able to hear any thing of them; which made him conclude that they had met with the same fate as his nephew. He spared no pains to gain intelligence of them, but his most anxious inquiries were vain, for their bodies were not to be found, nor could any person inform him what was become of them.

Overwhelm'd with grief, and agitated by a thousand inquietudes and suspicions, he was renewing his orders for a fresh and, if possible, more diligent inquiry into the Prince's fate, when the gentleman who had saved his life arrived

arrived, and acquainted him with all that had passed. The Viceroy received great consolation in hearing that the Prince was not dead and flew instantly to the place whither the gentleman had got him carried, to testify his joy; but being informed by the surgeons that his wounds were very dangerous, he for the present contented himself with embracing him, with his eyes bathed in tears, and immediately withdrew. Two days after, they found several dead bodies along the coast, which made the Viceroy fear the Rovers had thrown the Princess Julia into the sea after having robbed her of her jewels and other valuable ornaments. The Prince's youth, together with the assistance of the surgeons, put him soon in a condition of fearing nothing from
his

his wounds; but not seeing his sister, the Princess Julia, for whom he had the most tender regard, he was continually making inquiries after her; and suspecting that they concealed the truth from him, he concluded that she was dead; this thought alone had nigh been more fatal to him than his wounds. The poignancy of his grief brought on a fever, which filled all those who had the care of his health with the most just and alarming apprehensions for his life. Nevertheless, time, with the assistance of proper remedies, at length compleated his cure. Nothing was capable of diminishing the grief he felt for the loss of his sister. He sent despatches to all the seaports of Barbary, to know if she had been carried there: he sent people on purpose to Tunis, Algiers, and Salee, but

but all his endavours proved ineffectual ; and he was so overcome and depressed by this severe and cruel accident, that he expressed an indifference for every thing in life ; nay he did not seem anxious even for his wedding. The Viceroy, who perfectly sympathized with him, attributed the excess of his grief to the goodness of his natural disposition ; and from such truly affectionate sentiments for the loss of his sister, he prognosticated felicity for his daughter ; but the death of his nephew affording him other prospects, he was willing that the Prince of Salerno, on marrying his daughter, should assume the name, and bear the arms of the house of Haro, with the title of duke d'Olivarez. The Prince, who derived his birth and genealogy from a long succession of illustrious

rious grandfires, was much offended at the proposition, tho' he judiciously concealed it, and secretly determined to renounce the marriage rather than a glorious name that he had inherited from a race of renowned ancestors. Some time after, happening to be alone with the Viceroy when he was reading an account of some new atchievements which the Venetians had just then performed on the Morea, the Prince, embracing this opportunity, begged he would condescend to his serving a campaign in the Venetian army; and endeavoured to persuade him, that he thought it would be shameful and inglorious to owe all his happiness and preferment entirely to his generosity, or to marry his daughter without having first performed something that might render

render him worthy of being his son in law, and the husband of a personage of so much merit as lady Catalina. The Viceroy, possessed of all the vanity of a Spaniard, became elated with this flattery, and granted to the Prince (tho not without some difficulty) the permission he desired, and even appointed six of his officers of distinguished merit to accompany him in his expedition.

The Prince, impatient to depart, and fearing that the Viceroy might recall the leave he had given him, used all possible dispatch to leave Naples, and went to pass the winter in Venice, there to wait an opportunity of embarking for the Morea. On his arrival there, he was informed that several German Princes had repaired thither to partake
of

of the pleasures and amusements of the Carnival, and was even assured that the duke of Savoy was there incog. The prince of Salerno had already made the tour of Italy, and had resided for some time at Turin, not so much for the sake of seeing at that court the epitome of that of France, as for the pleasure of admiring the noble qualities of the duke of Savoy; the vivacity of whose wit, joined to the steadiness of his attention to public affairs, and his noble and affable carriage and behaviour, had quite charmed him, and created in his breast such an esteem for this great prince, that he enjoyed a particular satisfaction in hearing he was at Venice, and felt a singular pleasure in having the opportunity of paying his compliments to him. He was received very politely:

politely : and tho' the duke endeavoured to be disengaged as much as possible from the world, and had an aversion to a croud of officious visitants, who only wearied him with their unwelcome assiduities, he permitted the prince of Salerno to accompany him wherever he went, and to make one of all his parties ; which distinction redoubled the esteem and attachment that the illustrious Neapolitan had for this noble duke.

Altho' the duke of Savoy was incognito, he kept a magnificent table, where several nobility of all nations dined every day, amongst whom the prince of Salerno remarked a Cavalier of a noble aspect, who spoke with remarkable propriety on the present state
of

of affairs, and seemed to display a great deal of sound judgment. The prince of Salermo, having a violent curiosity to know his name, was informed that he was called the Count Maximilian. At his next *tete a tete* party with the duke of Savoy, he mentioned the German count with a great deal of esteem and respect, declaring that he never expected to meet with a German of such refined sentiments. The duke assured him, that he was a personage of a very noble family, and that he had already made several campaigns in Hungary, where he had acquired great reputation. This intelligence greatly increased the regard the prince had already conceived for the count, and enhanced the great opinion he had formed of him, and made the prince the
more

more eager and desirous to contract an indissoluble friendship with a person of so much merit; in which he found no great difficulty, the duke of Savoy and the count being together almost every day.

C H A P.

more than one hundred in number, as
 the number of the vessel was a portion of
 the number of the vessel in which he found no
 great difficulty, the date of 21st
 and the cargo being together about
 twenty days.

C H A P.

CHAP. III.

THE elector of Bavaria was also at Venice this Carnival but so *incog*, that he would receive no visits from any person whatsoever, but frequented the assemblies, and other public places under a borrowed name, forbidding even those who accompanied him to show him any deference. The prince of Salerno, who was a great friend to distinguished merit, and who had often heard of the valour of this surprising young fellow, had an ardent desire to see him. The duke assured him, that,

C

to

to be made acquainted with the elector of Bavaria, he need but address himself to count Maximilian, who was quite intimate with him. The prince of Salerno, benefiting by this intelligence, conjured the count to procure him the honour of an introduction to the elector of Bavaria; which the count most cheerfully promised to do with the greatest freedom, and even engaged him to dine with the elector the next day. The duke of Savoy, understanding this, would fain make one of the party, assuring the prince of Salerno before hand, that he would be graciously received by the elector on being presented by the count Maximilian.

The duke of Savoy, accompanied by the prince of Salerno, was punctual
to

to the appointment the day following at the elector's palace, where they were received by the count Maximilian ; who having conducted them into the cabinet, while dinner was serving up, the conversation became very lively and spirited between the duke and the count, without the prince of Salermo's joining in it ; his mind being taken up with preparing the necessary compliment for the approaching ceremony between him and the elector. The count, perceiving it, embraced him, and told him to throw off all restraint, for that the elector of Bavaria was not less his friend than the count Maximilian. The prince of Salermo, being surpris'd to discover the elector of Bavaria in the person of the count, and confus'd at the liberties he had taken with so great a prince, made

him a thousand apologies; but the elector, who was rejoiced at having made such a friend by his merit only, without his dignity having any share in it, begged he would behave to him as before, and to look upon him always as count Maximilian. The conversation at dinner was carried on with a great deal of gaiety; and the Neapolitan retired in the evening so charmed with the goodness of the elector and his rare qualifications, that he resolved to go and serve in Hungary with this prince, instead of going to the Morea as he had at first proposed: upon which he immediately wrote to the Viceroy of Naples concerning it, who entirely approved of his design, and sent him, in a very little time after, a splendid equipage.

After

After the elector of Bavaria (under the disguise of his mask) had seen all the operas, public and private balls, and concerts, played at basset, and frequented the grates of the nunneries, which are the common diversions of the carnival at Venice, he returned to his dominions, accompanied by the prince of Salerno, who followed him soon after to the wars in Hungary. The beginning of this campaign passed without any memorable occurrence; the Turks, intimidated with their ill success in the preceding ones, kept themselves intrenched in the environs of Essek, without daring to undertake any thing: but the Christians, accustomed to conquer, were daily seeking fresh opportunities of triumph. This induced them to pass the Drave in order to approach the enemy; but,

but, perceiving that the Turks did not quit their post, and that it was impossible to force them, they having such good intrenchments, the prince of Lorraine foreseeing that he should want forage, or perhaps willing to draw off the enemy, resolved to pass the Drave. Had the Turks had experienced commanders here, it would have been an easy matter to have charged the Imperialists in their passage; but so far from embracing the opportunity, they did not perceive it till all the army was on the other side again; notwithstanding which, they judged that the Christians had made this motion to avoid the combat. This thought inspired them with such courage, that they thought the Imperialists half conquered, because they retreated;

retreated; and did not hesitate any longer to attack them.

The Ottoman army, according to the report of the prisoners, consisted of, at least, sixty thousand men, among whom were above twenty thousand Janizaries; the major part of them veteran troops, and their cavalry well mounted. They had upwards of a hundred pieces of cannon, mortars, provisions of all sorts, and ammunition in great plenty; their parties ransacked continually the country, and carried off almost every day foragers belonging to the Imperialists; which small advantages made them hope for greater. The Christian army, having quitted the camp of Mohats, marched from the side of the mountain of Harza, which was not far from the enemy's

enemy's camp: the Turks detached
 five or six thousand horse, who skirmish-
 ed continually, first on the right, then
 on the left wing of the Imperialists.
 Then prince Charles of Lorraine, led a
 detachment of Croats to disperse them,
 but was so vigorously repulsed by the
 Turks, that they drove them back to
 the head of the first line: upon which
 the prince was obliged to send for a fresh
 body of troops; among whom were
 several volunteers, who charged the
 Turks so warmly, that they obliged
 them to retreat, and prevented the de-
 feat of the Croats. The prince of Saler-
 mo, who was foremost in every danger,
 not only prompted by a desire of glory,
 and an inclination to shew his bravery,
 but also stimulated by the pleasure he
 had received from being able to give
 the

the elector an account of what was going forward, received a contusion in this combat. Mean while, the Turkish troops appeared upon all quarters, and by their motions it was easy to judge, that they intended to give battle. The elector of Bavaria, who commanded the rear guard, sent an aid de camp to reconnoitre the Turks; but not being satisfied with the report made to him, he went himself, attended by the prince of Salerno; and, being advanced too near, received a musket shot on the left arm, which wounded him but slightly, the ball having only grazed his elbow. This prevented his observing the motions of the enemy, tho' he quickly perceived a body of their troops advancing to attack the rear guard in flank and rear. The prince, making the most ad-
C 5
vantage

vantage of this discovery, immediately dispatched two battalions with a squadron of Croats to support them, who entirely frustrated the design of the Turks. He at the same time commanded count Piccolomini to possess himself of an adjacent valley with his two regiments: but the Turks, who had the same design, charged one of the regiments so roughly that they entirely broke them, killed several officers, and took a standard. The Croats, who had advanced to sustain this regiment, were beginning to gain ground, when the elector of Bavaria marched himself at the head of a large battalion; which not only put a stop to the further progress of the Turks in this quarter, but also prevented their improving the advantage they had gained. He then ordered

dered prince Louis de Bade, general of the horse, with the troops under his command, to attack four thousand Spahis who appeared on his left, whom after a slight resistance he obliged to retire, and take post behind a large body of the enemies infantry, while the Janizaries, who seemingly advanced with great resolution, finding themselves abandoned by the Spahis, whose duty it was to have sustained them, fell back in good order, and, without breaking their ranks, retreated to the head of their intrenchments, where they again began a very hot fire, but seeing the Christians receive it without moving, or being put into the least disorder, and that they were preparing to rush in upon them, they precipitately took to flight on the side of their camp.

The

The Spahis, who had already given ground, and another body of horse who were advancing to cover the first detachment, intimidated by the confusion of the Janizaries, clapped spurs to their horses and fled full gallop; which spread such a terror thro' the enemies camp, that their whole army thought of nothing but their own preservation. Prince Charles having by this time routed four thousand Tartars, who who appeared in an adjacent wood, the Christians found themselves complete masters of the field. The elector of Bavaria pursued the flying enemy quite close to their heels, and, being one of the first who entered their camp, possessed himself of the grand Vizir's division, which was very conspicuous by the richness of the tents, particularly the

the largest, which was immensely magnificent. All around were a great number of Christians heads, which the Turkish soldiers had carried in for the sake of the customary reward. Here the Christians possessed themselves of many valuable effects, and important papers, besides a very considerable sum in specie; and, continuing the pursuit till night, made a great slaughter.

CHAP.

the largely selfish was immensely mag-
nificent. All around were a great many
poor Christian people, which the Lord
of the universe had created in for the sake
of the Christian reward. Here the
Christians polished themselves & many
valuable efforts, and important papers,
besides a very considerable sum in specie,
and, containing the portion and night
made a great gathering.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

THE prince of Salermo, animated by the heat of the action, and mortified that the faint resistance made by the Turks should deprive him of so glorious an opportunity of immortalizing his name, was so eager and forward in pursuit of the flying Mahometans, with only a few straggling adventurers who had joined him by chance, that he suddenly found himself surrounded by a large body of Janizaries, who rallied, and took him prisoner, with all those that had accompanied

panied him. The Janizaries, to cover the disgrace of their flight, and to make it appear they had no share in their companions cowardice, resolved to carry their prisoners to the grand Vizir, which they did, having first stript them, even to their shirts.

The general, after ordering each of them a stuff garment, sent them to the Bassa of Damas, to compensate for the loss he had lately sustained by some Christian slaves, who had made their escape to the Christian camp. Thus the unfortunate Prince of Salerno, plundered and taken prisoner in the night time, found himself indiscriminately classed with a parcel of miserable common soldiers, and reduced with them

them to the wretched, servile condition of a slave to the Bassa of Damas.

This Bassa had married a princess who was sister to the grand Signior : but his own personal merit and goodness of heart, rendered him more conspicuous than any advantages that could be derived from an illustrious alliance. He was a particular friend of the grand Vizir, and went to Hungary at the request of this Minister, to assist him with his advice in the re-establishment of affairs, which were then in great disorder. The loss of the battle, and the general consternation which it occasioned through the whole army, induced him to advise the Vizir not to think of renewing the war with such undisciplined troops, who would run at the sight of an enemy without

without fighting, but to endeavour to make peace if it was possible; and in the mean time to distribute the remains of his army in such manner as would prevent their receiving any further insult or diminution from the Imperialists. He then set out for his government, to reside there, and to join his Princess, and the other ladies he had left at Bursa, that they might not remain any longer exposed to the perils of war, nor the hardship of a longer journey.

The unfortunate Prince of Salerno supported himself under the misfortunes of his present state of life with the greatest fortitude; and, following the Bassa, discharged the duty they had imposed on him with the greatest cheerfulness

fulness and condescension. The Bassa, after having rested two days at Bursa, continued his march, accompanied by his women, and crossed Bithynia, where the Princess's coach breaking down in a rough road, the black eunuchs who attended her, fearing she should be obliged to remain all night in the open road, contrived a sort of sedan; and, with the consent of the Princess, had slaves to carry her to the next village. They did not fail on this occasion to chuse the best made among them; and the Prince of Salerno, notwithstanding the obscurity of his present condition, having distinguished himself with ease by his good mien, was one of those who was fixed upon to carry the Princess. So rude a command did not in the least affect him, having all along

a great

a great curiosity to see a Princess of the Ottoman Blood. As soon as the slaves were arrived, the Princess put herself in the chair they had prepared for her, while the Prince, who examined her with a great deal of attention, could not help observing her elegant size and shape, her face perfectly beautiful, fine black eyes, and lips of so lively a colour, that they exceeded any coral; her teeth regular, and as white as alabaster; her neck was of a dazzling whiteness and her black flowing locks, ornamented with pearls, hung down on her shoulders. She wore a kind of a cimarre of pink gauze, with a girdle of large diamonds, whose lustre was far inferior to the brilliancy of her eyes.

The

The Prince was so struck with her beauty, that, without considering the apparent distance between an unfortunate slave, and a Princess of the Ottoman blood, he loved her to excess from that moment; and altho' the other slaves (who were more accustomed to labour than the Prince) complained of the length of the way, he carried her two leagues with more pleasure than he ever had experienced in his most agreeable diversions. The Princess having entered the house they had prepared for her, the amorous Neapolitan became extremely melancholy and reserved, seeing himself deprived, as he thought, of his beautiful Princess, without any other consolation, than to trace in his mind her beautiful features, her majestic gait, and a thousand other perfections he thought he had discovered in her since she was out

out of his sight. He remained full of those ideas till the day following, when his first care was to know whether the coach was refitted, flattering himself that otherwise he might still have an opportunity of waiting on the Princess, as he had done the day before ; but found, to his mortification, that the coach was perfectly repaired, and in a condition to carry her; and, whatever pains he might take, it would now be impossible for him to see the Princess again for the remainder of the journey. He was informed, moreover, that the Ottoman ladies were never seen; that they were always shut up in the seraglios of their husbands, where no body was suffered to approach them but the black Eunuchs, and the women who attended them; and, from all appearances,

he had reason to believe that he should never see her more. This consideration, however, did not entirely discourage him: the charms of the Princess ran so continually in his mind, that he forgot all difficulties, and found singular consolation in thinking that he was so near her.

C H A P.

CHAP. V.

IN the mean time, the elector of Bavaria, not seeing the prince of Salerno since the defeat of the Turks, became extremely solicitous to know what was become of him: he had him sought for in all parts, but not finding him among the slain, judged that his courage, and desire of glory, had led him too far in pursuit of the enemy, and that he had been taken prisoner. He thereupon sent to demand him of the Grand Vizir, offering to pay whatever

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ransom

ransom he should demand. The Grand Vizir, who had scarce any prisoners, could hear nothing of him; but, concluding that the prince might have been among the slaves, which the Bassa of Damas had taken with him, he sent a messenger to acquaint him, that there was among them an Italian prince, whom they offered a great ransom for; requesting, that he might be sent back, and be treated with all respect and kindness imaginable; proposing within himself to make use of this prince's interest and influence in the negotiation of peace with the Christian generals.

As soon as the Bassa had received this intelligence, he had all the Italian slaves brought before him; and after having
com-

complained of the prince of Salerno's not making himself known, he said he had nothing to do but to discover himself, in order to be restored to his liberty, and be sent back to the Christian army, as his ransom was already paid ; but none of the prisoners made answer, except by their countenances, by which it was easy to perceive that the discourse was nowise interesting to them. The amorous prince, who heard what passed as well as the rest, felt not the least impulse to declare who he was ; nothing appearing to him more cruel than to be removed from his princess, he therefore now concealed his quality with more precaution than ever.

The Bassa, naturally concluding that there was no man so void of taste as to

prefer a state of fervility to the happy condition of a prince, thought within himself, that the Grand Vizir must be mistaken, and accordingly sent him word, that the prince he enquired after was not among his slaves. Our amorous Neapolitan was not so entirely taken up with his passion, as not to think sometimes on his own country, and to compare the delightful amusements of Naples to the obscure and disagreeable life he led at that time, and the honours he was used to receive in Italy to the contempt they treated him with at Damas: notwithstanding which melancholy reflections, he imagined that he had never tasted true happiness till he became enamoured of the princess; and his passion blinded him to such a degree,

degree, that he would not have changed his condition for that of the greatest prince in Europe.

About this time two Spanish friars §, who were on a mission for the ransoming Christian slaves, being informed that the Bassa of Damas had brought off with him several Christians from the late war in Hungary, thought that they ought to redeem those preferably to any others; and addressing themselves to the Bassa's superintendant, they agreed with him for the ransom of thirty two slaves, of which number the prince of Salermo was one.

§ In most Roman Catholic countries they have an order of Monks, whose business is to collect money, and apply it to the redeeming of Christian slaves from the Turks and Moors.

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The charitable pains of these religious fathers reduced him to a cruel dilemma, for he looked upon his liberty as the greatest misfortune that could ever befall him, and yet he had no excuse to offer for refusing it: in which extremity, his passion for the princess suggested to him an expedient that he never should have thought of on any other occasion; for knowing self-interest to be the foible of the Turks, he addressed himself to the Bassa, and told him immediately, that he was the prince of Salerno, that he had hitherto declined making himself known, being unwilling to return to the Emperor's army, where he had been disgusted, but that finding himself now at the point of being set at liberty, he could not think of abusing him so far, as to depart without informing him
who

who he was; and offered to remain his slave till his ransom was remitted, for fear he should imagine that he had disguised himself so long with a view of deceiving him, and thereby saving what he ought to pay for his freedom as a prince. The Bassa, who was a very good man, and much more refined than the generality of the Turks, was greatly surprized with a conduct that appeared to him so generous; he embraced the prince, assuring him, that from that moment he should be free; but begged of him, nevertheless, not to be impatient to depart, but to oblige him in making some stay at Damas, that he might have an opportunity of making amends for the involuntary disrespect he had been guilty of towards him through ignorance of his quality: and then ordering him
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to be provided with rich dresses, had him for the future attended and accommodated in a manner suitable to his rank.

C H A P.

CHAP. VI.

ALL these distinguishing marks of friendship were not able to restore the prince's tranquillity of mind: he foresaw that he should soon be obliged to leave Damas, without the least prospect of ever seeing his adorable princess again; which thought alone was to him so insupportable, that, so far from rejoicing at his change of condition, he became every day more and more melancholy and afflicted. The Bassa omitted nothing that he judged might

contribute to the amusement of this illustrious stranger: he made hunting matches on purpose to divert him; and perceiving that he was a good horseman, and that riding afforded him some pleasure, he proposed to him almost every day that exercise, and even had the complaisance to accompany him in all these excursions himself. This intimacy gave the Bassa an opportunity of remarking, that the prince had a great share of good sense; for he expatiated with so much judgment and perspicuity on matters of peace and war, and made such just observations on every other general topic, that the Bassa, who was himself a man of great penetration, became so charmed with him, that he was never tired with his conversation;
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in short, he admired him so much, and became so prepossessed in his favour, on account of his good qualities, that he could not forbear speaking of him, even in his seraglio, where he sometimes entertained the princess with the consummate abilities, attractive appearance and engaging address of this Christian. However, the Bassa, still observing that the prince enjoyed solitude more than company, and that he appeared uneasy and constrained when he proposed parties of pleasure to him, and not being able to guess at the cause of his chagrin, used all means to divert him. His complaisance was so great, that he even offered to introduce him to the ladies of his seraglio, if he thought their society could afford him any recess from his melancholy;

melancholy. The prince thanked him, but told him, that in his country they were extremely delicate with respect to the ladies ; that they lived sociably with all the sex, but never testified any particular attachment but to one ; that the heart generally made the choice without interest having any share in it ; that they afterward endeavoured, by infinite pains and assiduity, and an inviolable perseverance, to render themselves beloved ; that they often spent whole years in their addresses, without succeeding, but that, when a man was fortunate enough to convince the lady that she had gained his heart, he experienced nothing but felicity, and real happiness, and found a singular pleasure in every thing that was agreeable to her ; loved
all

all that approached her ; thought of nothing but seeing her, writing to her, and being with her ; and that the reflection alone, of being loved by her, was capable of consoling him under all misfortunes.

I cannot comprehend, replied the Bassa, how the Christians, who aspire to a knowledge of every thing, and apply themselves to a thousand useless studies, are so unacquainted with the dispositions of women, when we only, who in you look upon as Barbarians, have found out the secret of managing them, without becoming obnoxious to their pride, levity, or caprice ; believe me, my dear prince, the women are not what you take them to be, they
are

are, at the best, only intended now and then to relax our minds, by their gaiety and complaisance; we ought to make use of them by way of amusement, without trusting to their flattery, or insinuating discourses; and above all, never put it in their power to betray us: for whatever regard they may have for our persons, they are always women, subject to frailty, and all the foibles of their sex. They may promise to share their affections with one only, and may sometimes be sincere in their protestations; they may spend even whole years without attending to the petitions of their admirers, but it will happen, some time or other, that they will have a pique against you, and yield at last, after all their former resistance. Then you will complain of their infidelity,

infidelity, call heaven and earth to witness their perfidy, and think no punishment too great for their treachery, though, it is no more than what you ought to have expected. The only means of insuring female fidelity is to lock them up, and take all the precautions imaginable to prevent their seeing, or having any interview with men. It plainly appears, replied the prince, that you have been accustomed to none but slaves, who dare refuse you nothing, and whom you have perhaps forced to gratify your desires, without consulting their heart, or inclination; we have more delicacy in our love affairs; we look upon our mistresses as ourselves; we open our hearts to them without reserve; and they, on their parts, do all
they

they can to comfort us under our afflictions. Every thing they say pleases us; they subscribe to every thing that may afford us pleasure, and there is so great a conformity in our desires, that we in general wish for the same things; we assume no other authority over them than what love allows us; and if you knew what an inconceivable happiness there is in being beloved by a fine woman, who has the liberty to love others, but nevertheless gives you the preference, and whose thoughts are entirely occupied with you, and who reckons every moment lost that she passes without you, you would undoubtedly be convinced, that you are deprived of the greatest of pleasures. If we look upon our women in the same
light

light as we do upon ourselves, replied the Bassa, we should treat them better than we do, but I am surpris'd that you should remain in so gross an error, as not to know (according to our law) they are our slaves by nature, and created for our pleasures only; and so far inferior to us in every respect, that they will not even be admitted to the celestial abode of the blessed, where the society of other women, infinitely more beautiful, will afford us ten thousand inconceivable pleasures, clear of all those disagreeable trains of inevitable cares and anxieties incident to the enjoyment of females in this world; notwithstanding which, you are so prepossessed in favour of your opinions, that I would not undertake to rectify your judgment.

judgment. Your seeming such an advocate for platonic love, reminds me of a Christian slave I have here, who appears to me to be much of the same humour as yourself. I have a regard for her, if she knew how to improve it; but her pride chagrined me so much, that I never attempted to make use of the authority I had over her, nor to offer any violence; although I know very well there are certain times when women are not displeased with a kind compulsion, that they may have an excuse for losing their honour: this girl is at present with the princess, who loves her very much, because she is of an extraordinary docile temper. I will contrive to procure you an interview with her. It is not the custom
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for men to enter our seraglios, but I shall dispense with that formality to oblige you, being glad of the opportunity to convince you, that a Mussulman is not so barbarous, nor so superstitious as the Christians imagine.

C H A P.

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C H A P. VII.

THE Bassa withdrawing after this conversation, the Prince, who never expected to have the liberty of entering into the Bassa's Seraglio, recapitulated in his mind all the perfections of his charming Princess who had inflamed his heart, and even began to have flattering hopes of seeing her again, proposing to himself to employ all his wit and dexterity in procuring the interest of the slave the Bassa had promised to introduce him to. As soon

as the Bassa returned into the Seraglio, he did not neglect extolling the Prince as usual ; and addressing himself to the slave in particular, he told her, that, to revenge himself on her haughtiness, he would procure her an interview with this Christian, being very well assured that he would soon work a change in her sentiments; but the slave, who was one of the most modest creatures in the world, made no answer to his discourse; so the Bassa passed on to the other women. The Princess desiring to know what he had been saying to her in particular; and the slave informing her, she expressed great concern at her not accepting the Bassa's proposal; confessing to her, that she should be glad to know, as on her judgement and fidelity she

she could depend, whether all that the Bassa had said in favour of the Christian Prince was true : in short, she intreated her, in such persuasive terms, to have the complaisance to do it for her sake if the opportunity should offer again, that the slave, imagining perhaps the Bassa would speak no more to her about it, was induced to promise the Princess all that she desired.

The Bassa, willing to keep his word with the Prince, did not long defer mentioning his intention to this fair slave the second time ; and at last obtained permission for her to go into the Sopha Chamber, to receive the intended visit of the Christian Prince, whom he acquainted with what he had done : and
 having

having conducted him into the Seraglio, he gave orders that no eunuch, nor any other of the women should come into that Chamber while they were there ; and judging by his looks that he was discontented, and that his presence might be a restraint on him, he left them together, and went into the apartments of his women. The Prince, whose thoughts were intirely occupied with his love for his dear Princess, had no curiosity to look at the slave, altho' she was perfectly beautiful, but contented himself with saying, that he looked upon himself as one of the most happy men breathing, in having an opportunity of speaking to a person who had the honour of approaching the greatest Princess on Earth. The slave, who perhaps was
never

never alone with a man in her life before, was so embarrassed, that she had not yet lifted up her eyes to behold him; but his voice, which was quite familiar to her, rousing her from this reverie, she quickly discovered him to be no other than the Prince of Salerno, her own brother; and without farther consideration threw her arms round his neck with all the transports of joy imaginable. The Prince, surpris'd at so unexpected a caress, returned it but very coolly; when the slave, fearing it possible that she might have been mistaken, looked at him again, when being confirmed it was her brother, she embraced him a second time without being able to speak; which naturally made the Prince conclude the women of the Seraglio were deserving enough

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of

of the character the Bassa had given him of them; but perceiving that she wept while she embraced him, it increased his astonishment, and looking at her again with more attention, he perceived with joy, that it was the Princess Julia, his sister. Never was surprise equal to his at so unexpectedly meeting a person so dear to him, and whom for so long a time he had thought to be dead. He then became softened in his turn, and stood for some time in a kind of ecstasy; tho' his joy was but imperfect, when he reflected on the dangers that his sister was exposed to in the Seraglio of a Turkish Bassa: but he did not continue long in this melancholy reflection; his love pointed out to him so many advantages which might result from his dear Julia's being so near the Princess, that

that all his fears were dispelled by the flattering hopes which this agreeable circumstance afforded him.

that all his fears were dispelled by the
returning hopes when this auspicious
circumstance attended him.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME

C H A P. VIII.

BEING recovered from their first surprise they reciprocally asked a thousand different questions, neither of them being sufficiently able to express their admiration of this whimsical turn of fortune. Julia informed him, that the Rovers, dazzled with the lustre of the quantity of jewels with which she was adorned, forced her away in spite of all Don Louis's utmost efforts to prevent them, who was killed in endeavouring to protect her; that they afterwards sold her to a Jew, who, thinking to pay
a very

a very agreeable compliment to the Bassa of Damas, presented her to him. She added, that under her present misfortunes she had at least the consolation of having fallen into the hands of the best man perhaps in all Turkey. He has not omitted (continued she blushing) to endeavour to obtain of me strange condescensions; but finding me so averse to his inclinations, he thinks, as I have have been since informed, that he has sufficiently punished me in taking away the women that used to wait on me: he afterwards ordered me to attend on his Princess, who is certainly the most charming person I ever knew, and whom I shall esteem as long as I live, since it is to her that I am indebted for this happy interview with you.

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It is easy to judge what emotions this discourse raised in the soul of the young Prince; he asked in one breath a thousand different questions, and was scarce able to give his sister any account of his departure from Naples, of his campaign in Hungary, and the manner in which he had been taken prisoner: but whilst he was giving her a narrative of the fortunate journey, that afforded him the first opportunity of seeing the amiable Princess who had inspired him with the tenderest sensations, he spoke of her in such moving terms, that Julia could easily judge his passion was very violent, and she afforded him the greatest consolation he ever received in his life, by informing him, that this beautiful Princess had listened with pleasure to all the advantageous accounts
the

the Bassa had given them of his wit, his comely person, and great abilities; which has excited in her (added she) a violent curiosity, to which I owe (as I have already told you) the pleasure of seeing you now: for on finding that I had declined the interview the Bassa had proposed, she perswaded me to it with such powerful intreaty, that I resolved to yield to it, not so much for the sake of intelligence, as to oblige her. The Prince who had no such good hopes of fortune, fell into transports of joy that it would be impossible to describe. He thought of nothing but his mistress; and forgetting that he was talking to his sister, conjured her to make the Princess acquainted with the violence of his passion; to tell her all he had suffered for her sake; and to assure her
that

that he would sooner lose his life than renounce his love. Mention me to her as often as you can, continued he; observe minutely every thing she says; and and if possible give me an account of all her thoughts. In short, do you exert all your influence to promote my interest with the Princess: I'll manage the Bassa in such a manner, that under the pretence of a violent love I shall feign for you, he will permit me to visit you often. Think of what I am going to say to you, my dear brother, interrupted Julia, with a severe tone. Have you so little regard for me, your own honour and mine, as to engage me to act the part you propose. The Prince, whose excess of love had carried him farther than he was aware of, ashamed to have drawn such just reproaches on himself, after

having begged his sister's pardon, assured her that it would be death to him to injure her reputation ; and begging her to conduct it as she pleased, but not entirely to abandon his interest, but to look upon him as the most unfortunate of men, overcome with a violent passion without the least hopes of acquainting the Princess with it, and chusing to die a thousand times rather than to sully the honour of a sister whom he had always so tenderly loved. They had been together near three hours, altho' it seemed to them but a few moments, when the Bassa returned. Julia on his appearance immediately retired ; and the Prince, going out with his friend, thanked him for the agreeable interview he had procured him, and assured him that he was a great deal better satisfied with it than

than he knew how to exprefs. I fee plainly, replied the Baffa, that fuch amusements are neceffary to divert your melancholy while amongst us. It is not my fault, continued he, if you do not frequently experience the fame fatisfaction; but we must be cautious in the management of your intrigue, for fear the Princess, who has a great regard for this slave, should discover it, and occasion fome disagreeable rupture. The Prince, surpris'd that a Turk should shew fuch a regard for his wife, found means, a fhort time after, to get out of the Baffa's Kiaia, or fuperintendant, a detail of his master's affairs, efpecially in what manner he lived with his women: and was told that he had a vaft number, who were all handsome, without any particular favourite among them; that
he

he lived very respectfully with the grand Sultan's sister, whom he had married very young ; that this Princess was of a remarkable cold disposition, and was so far from being jealous of the other women, that she often visited his greatest favourites, and made them rich presents, while the Bassa, for his part being one who had an aversion to constraint, was glad to dispense with the ceremonies so rigidly observed by all the Bassa's, who have the honour to marry with Princess's of the Ottoman blood, they being obliged to submit to many very troublesome formalities, particularly of that of kneeling to the foot of the Princess's bed, and stroke her feet, till she orders them to approach ; and if she should not happen to be in a humour to grant them that liberty, they must

must remain in that posture till she falls asleep, and then retire. The Prince was much surpris'd with so extraordinary an account, and began to apprehend he should remain unhappy as long as he lived, since the object of his passion was of so particular a temper, and had so long remained insensible to the assiduities of the Bassa, who was esteem'd the most accomplished man in the Empire.

CHAP. I

must remain in that posture till the bells
 stop, and then rise. The Prince
 was much surprised when he unexpectedly
 an account, and began to apprehend
 he should retain his happy as long as
 he lived, since the object of his passion
 was of so particular a temper, and had
 so long remained faithful to the same.
 But of the little, whereas expected the
 most accomplished man in the Empire.

THE HISTORY OF THE PRINCE OF CHINA

C H A P. IX.

WHILE the Prince was occupied with these thoughts, the Princess, being particularly informed by the slave of the conversation she had with him, was curious to know how he appeared in her eyes, and a hundred particulars; which sufficiently demonstrated how much she was interested in the person of the Prince. The slave made no difficulty in telling her that he had a very fine shape, and a great deal of wit and understanding; assuring her, at the same time,

time, that she had never met with a man whom she took greater pleasure in seeing than him. The Princess indulging the secret passion she had conceived for this illustrious stranger, confessed to the slave that it was impossible for her to resist her curiosity any longer, and that she was determined to see him at all events. Julia, considering what pleasure would result to her brother from such an interview, did not attempt to dissuade her from her resolution; but, on the contrary, remarked the facility of gratifying her inclination, by going in her stead, in case the Bassa should propose another interview between her and the Prince. As it happened, the Bassa came into the Seraglio the same evening; and, after having paid his compliments

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to the Princess, gave Julia to understand, that, if the last conversation had not displeased her, she might be at the same place the day following, about the same hour she had met the prince before; assuring her, that he felt the greatest impatience to see her again. The Bassa being gone, the slave acquainted the Princess with what had passed, which afforded her inexpressible joy. She spent great part of the night in different questions to her slave, concerning the dispositions of the Christians, but above all desiring to know if they were constant in their regard for persons who had once inspired them with love. The slave, who had not experienced that part of their temper, answered very modestly on that head; however, did not omit telling

telling her, that since the Christian laws obliged them to have but one wife, there was no reason to doubt but that the Prince, who should enjoy such exquisite beauty and merit as she possessed, would adore her for life.

The day following, she took care to dress to advantage, and neglected nothing that she imagined could contribute to the enhancement of her charms: and the hour being come, she punctually repaired to the Sopha Chamber, where the Prince was already arrived, impatiently expecting his sister; not so much for the pleasure he proposed to himself in the conversation of a person who was so dear to him, as in hopes of hearing news from the Princess. He was so agreeably

ably surpris'd, and at the same time so dazzled with the lustre of her beauty, which had already fully occupied his imagination, that he threw himself at her feet, without being able to utter a syllable; while the Princess, who was no less embarrassed than himself, omitted not offering her hand to raise him. The Prince thus encouraged, assured her, that he did not envy the happiness of the greatest Monarch on Earth, since he was once more so fortunate as to behold the most beautiful Princess in the world, and to enjoy an opportunity of acquainting her, that he adored her from the first sight. The Princess, surpris'd at this discourse, imagin'd at first the Prince must be mistaken, not comprehending that ever he had seen her.

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This thought gave her some uneasiness, and excited at the same time in her a curiosity that she could nowise resist: and interrupting him, in spite of her timidity, asked him, in a faltering tone, if he was not mistaken, and at what time, and where he had seen her? That day, replied the Prince, is too remarkable for me ever to forget, since I had the honour of being employed in your service with the other slaves, when the coach broke down near Bursa. The Princess, ashamed of her curiosity, reproached herself inwardly for not having distinguished, from the rest of the slaves, so personable a Cavalier; and even confessed something of it to her lover; who protested, that he only meant to be known to her by his passion;

tion; that he had already refused his liberty twice rather than be banished from her; that tho' his condition had been much altered by means of the Bassa's kindness to him, yet he thought himself never the happier for it, having lost almost all hopes of ever seeing her again; but tho' fortune never ceased persecuting him, yet he was so happy to find himself with the only person in the world that had ever been capable of inflaming his heart with love, that nothing could possibly now make him unhappy, his life even appearing to him too small a price for so extraordinary a blessing.

The Princess, thoroughly satisfied with this passionate declaration, but
more

more especially to understand that the Prince had loved her for so long a time, answered with an air of the greatest modesty, That having been brought up by a Christian slave, who apparently had renounced her religion, tho' in her soul she had retained firmly its principles, she ever since that time entertained a secret inclination for the Christians, which she should never repent of, since she saw plainly, that all that had been reported of their merit fell far short of what she had personally experienced of them. The Prince made a thousand vows and protestations of an eternal love and constancy ; and had the satisfaction to perceive, that the beautiful Ottoman

listened

listened to him with transport : but the present happiness of the two lovers was not of long duration.

CHAP.

not of your domain.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

THE Bassa, ever full of anxious concern for the Princess, fearing she might, perhaps, endure a disagreeable solitude by Julia's absence, went into her apartment to entertain her, but was astonished to find, instead of the Princess, the slave Julia all alone. At first, without making any further observations, he complained of her having forfeited her word with the Prince; while the slave, disconcerted at the apprehensions of the danger her brother was exposed to, with all that

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presence of mind so peculiar to the fair sex on any emergency, told the Bassa, she could not leave the Princess, who was rather indisposed; and having just left her cabinet where she was asleep, entreated him not to disturb her. The Bassa, having nothing to say to so natural an excuse, was for going into the Sopha Chamber to acquaint his friend with the disagreeable news, when Julia, finding that in avoiding one danger she fell into a greater, ventured to tell the Bassa, that if he would promise to stay there a short time, without making a noise, or going near the cabinet, at least till the Princess awoke, she would go for one moment to see the Prince, and would not fail acquainting him with the fresh obligations he was under to his generous friend.

friend. The Bassa approved of the proposal, and even condescended to rally her on the occasion; and she, without losing a moment, ran in the greatest confusion into the Sopha Chamber, and, alarming the two lovers with the news that the Bassa was in the Princess's apartment, begged of her brother to leave the Séraglio instantly, as the eunuch, who was upon guard, having seen him with the Bassa, would naturally let him pass unmolested. The Princess crept softly into her cabinet, through a little communicating door; and the slave returned immediately to the Bassa, pretending, that the Prince had not patience to wait any longer, and was gone.

The apprehensions she had been under for the safety of her brother, had put her into an agitation that gave such an additional lustre to her charms, which the Bassa took notice of, and confessed, that she had never appeared to him so beautiful before. He looked upon her with a great deal of attention and pleasure; and, as a flame that is not entirely extinguished is easily kindled again, he began to talk to her in very affectionate terms, while the Princess, pretending to have awoke, calling the slave, he went away; and finding the Prince, whom an eunuch had detained at the gate, he told him, that day had proved unfortunate for him, chiefly by his own fault, his impatience having prevented his seeing the beautiful slave. The Prince, who had hitherto been
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under great apprehensions for his mistress, finding, by the Bassa's discourse, that there was nothing amiss, gave way, without fear, to the secret pleasure he had enjoyed in the sight of his amiable princess: he answered, without the least disorder, to all the Bassa's railleries, on account of his supposed misfortune. The Bassa remarked it; and as his former passion for the beautiful slave began to revive, he was sorry to perceive, that the Prince as yet did not seem in the least enamoured with her; and retired with a fixed resolution not to expose his slave any longer to the addresses of so accomplished a lover.

As soon as the Prince found himself alone, his thoughts were entirely taken up with his good fortune: he recounted

ed over in his mind, a thousand times, all the charms of his adorable mistress; and enjoyed, without restraint, the pleasure of knowing, that he was beloved by the most beautiful Princess upon earth. In short, all that had just happened appeared to him so much beyond his most sanguine hopes, that sometimes he imagined it to be a dream: for when he reflected on his late misfortunes, the manner of his being taken, abused, and mingled with a parcel of slaves, and, in that deplorable condition, that fortune, to plague him the more, should ordain his soul to be captivated with the sight of one of the finest Princesses in the world, without giving him the least hopes of ever seeing her again; that, notwithstanding all this, without being even released, he was used like a Prince,

Prince, esteemed by the Bassa, and even beloved by his Princess; these agreeable reflections made him enjoy many happy moments; and the joy he had in finding his dear sister Julia filled up the measure of his happiness. However, the Bassa, being passionately in love with his beautiful slave, was extremely afraid the Prince should become his rival; and although he imagined he spoke of her with indifference, he thought that he might not have sufficiently sounded his sentiments, and was actually impatient to be convinced. The next morning early, he sent to the Prince, to acquaint him, that he should be glad of his company in the garden, where they used to walk sometimes together. The Prince did not fail waiting on him; when, after the usual compliments, the

Bassa's

Bassa's conversation insensibly turned upon the beautiful slave: he told the Prince, that he plainly saw the design, which he had formed of captivating his heart with the beautiful slave, did not succeed; that, however, he begged of him to confess ingenuously whether or not he did not think her extremely agreeable, and whether he did not find himself, in some measure, inclined to love her. The Prince assured him, that she appeared to him to be perfectly handsome; that he found she had very delicate and just sentiments, with all the engaging manners of a person of quality; and, in short, all that was necessary to merit the attention and attachment of a worthy man. You love her then! replied the Bassa, with great eagerness. It is true, replied the Prince, that

that I love her, but with a love so pure, and so different from the general idea of that passion, that I have no selfish view in it; all my recompence consists in the knowledge I have, that she merits my esteem: I would sacrifice myself for her, without hesitation, if it was necessary; and yet I can assure you, that my affection is of a cast so platonic, that I could spend my whole life with her, without feeling the least desires of enjoyment. The Bassa, who looked upon love as nothing without inclination for enjoyment, was pleased to find that the Prince had such particular sentiments; and, judging of all women by the knowledge he had of those of his own country, thought, that the beautiful slave would not long put up with so chimerical a lover.

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However, he concealed the regard he had for her, and promised the Prince to procure him another interview. His own interest, as well as that of his friend, impelled him to return the same day to the Seraglio, and to entertain Julia with his passion, under pretence of conversing about the Prince. He even wanted to make her a very considerable present, but she refused it, and answered to all his intreaties with a modesty that almost drove him to despair. However, he made an appointment with her for an interview with the Prince, and endeavoured to make her consider this condescension as the greatest proof he could give of his love. The Prince, to whom every day seemed an age which he spent without hearing from his charming Princess,

Princess, waited with the utmost impatience the event of the Bassa's promise; but his expectation proved fruitless; for the Bassa, who behaved under constraint in the Princess's apartment, and had not the liberty of talking freely to the beautiful Christian, did not go out all the day, but waited in the Sopha Chamber for the Princess's arrival, flattering himself, that, at the same time he informed her the Prince would soon be there, he might have an opportunity of acquainting her of the violence of his passion. The Princess, having intelligence from her slave, and being impatient to see her dear lover again, had been waiting there a long while. The Sopha Chamber was contrived in such a manner, that one could see, at a sufficient distance, any one that was coming
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into it. It is easy to guess at the Princess's surprise, when she beheld her husband instead of her lover: she thought at first to run away, but found herself so seized with fear and astonishment, that she was not able to stir a single step from the place. In this dilemma, she did all she could to recover her spirits while the Bassa approached; and regarding him with eyes of indignation, Is it thus, said she, that you treat a Princess of the Ottoman blood? You know that I tenderly love this Christian slave, and yet you endeavour to seduce her from my service. What are become of your solemn vows you made at our marriage, never to displease me? Have you forgotten the respect you ought to have for your master's sister? and are not the many thousands of women, who

who study nothing but to please you, sufficient to satisfy your desires, without depriving me of a maiden that I love, and obliging me in this manner to reproach you with the little respect you shew me? The Bassa, surpris'd and confounded at so extraordinary an adventure, concluded, that the beautiful slave, on his passionate discourse the day before, had complained to her mistress; and what added to his misfortune was, he thought she would never requite his passion. However, concealing his grief, he promised the Princess every thing she required of him; and particularly not to speak any more to the beautiful slave; and after making great concessions, returned to his apartment, and sent her several rich presents to appease her anger.

C H A P.

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C H A P. XI.

TH E obstacles that the Bassa met with in his love, served only to inflame him the more: he spent the night in continual agitation, and was considering of some means of gratifying his passion, when the Prince, who was as restless as himself, entered his apartment. The Bassa, who did not look upon him any longer as his rival, since he had explained to him the nature of his love, told him with a sigh, that he looked upon him as very fortunate in loving the beautiful slave with so small
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a degree of affection. She has not used me with so much indulgence, continued he ; the passion, which I formerly entertained for her, is rekindled by visiting her on your behalf, and it is now become so violent, that I am no longer able to restrain it: it is you, Prince, who are the cause of it, and who, being better acquainted than I am with the tempers and dispositions of the people of your nation, must give me some advice, that may make me happy: he then, without giving the Prince time to reply, gave him a full detail of all that had happened to him the day before, not omitting the adventure of the Princess: the recital of which could not but alarm the Prince, and forced several involuntary sighs from him, in spite of all the pains he took

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to suppress them. The Bassa, having informed his friend of all these things, besought him to give him his opinion. I should be the most ungrateful man, replied the Prince, if I did not give you one salutary piece of counsel, which is the only thing that can compose your mind under these circumstances. It appears to me, that this slave, whom you so much esteem, is a person of some distinction, a great soul, of very noble and refined sentiments: among us, a lady of such birth is free from the weakness of the generality of her sex; her honour is dearer to her than her life; and, as far as I can judge, the slave we are speaking of would not have lost a jot of hers by the smallest condescension to any man. Persons of this rank never marry but by the choice
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of their parents, and that almost always without being consulted themselves. Well, interrupted the Bassa, sighing, I will consent to marry her ; I should even be glad you would acquaint her with the news, that you may make her sensible of the excess of her good fortune. She must only conceal her religion: I will never hinder her from exercising it in private ; for you know, I have no aversion to the Christian laws. The Prince, who began to fear he should lose all further opportunity of hearing of his mistress, and glad to find he should see Julia again, made no other reply to the Bassa, than that he would speak to the beautiful slave, without taking upon him any thing else.

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There was nothing to be done now, but to concert means for this interview. The Bassa durst not speak to this beautiful slave any more but at the Princess's, and he could see her no where else ; and feared, that even when he should have surmounted this difficulty, she would not trust to his word. The Prince, on his side, proposed nothing, for fear his love should betray him, or some word escape that might discover to the Bassa what interest he had in this commission. At last, after having meditated some time, the Bassa judged, that if the Prince would write in Italian two or three lines, in a note to the beautiful slave, to beg of her to be in the Sopha Chamber, signifying to her, that she would not be disappointed again,

again, as he would be sure to be there: and taking upon him to send the billet-doux by an eunuch, the Prince wrote it.

Julia, who was thoroughly convinced of the Princess's regard for her brother, and dreaded the dangerous consequences of it, was almost in despair to see him engaged in this intrigue; nor could she refrain telling the Princess her sentiments, and representing to her, that her affection would certainly be the ruin of this unfortunate Cavalier. The Princess now perceived, that the beautiful slave had not the same zealous attachment as usual to the amour: and, not comprehending what motives she could have to interest herself so much in the person of the Prince, began to suspect, that she

she might secretly love him, and make serious reflections on every thing she had said; and as she had the most sincere affection for the Prince, she trembled when she considered, that, if the affair should be discovered, an ignominious death would be the least punishment he could expect; which thought occasioned her so much fear and horror, that at certain moments she almost resolved upon breaking off the communication, chusing rather to be miserable by anticipation, than to endanger so precious a life. Tho' finding that it would be impossible to live without seeing or hearing from her dear Prince, yet she would not risk the life of her lover, and could not resolve on depriving herself of the pleasure of seeing him.

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After several irresolutions, her love, (which was always most predominant) and the impossibility she saw there was of keeping up a correspondence without imminent danger, determined her to propose to the Prince the carrying her off, and was very impatient to see him to communicate her design to him; but so far from acquainting the beautiful slave with it, she endeavoured to avoid giving her any suspicions, but watched her very narrowly. In the mean while, Julia, having received her brother's note, whose writing she readily knew, mentioned nothing of it to the Princess; foreseeing, that she would have gone in her stead; but went into the Sopha Chamber, without acquainting her of it, where she found the Prince, who eagerly asked her concerning his mistress.

tress. Julia replied, that, for his sake, she wished he had never seen her ; and conjured him, with tears in her eyes, to endeavour to subdue a passion that must be attended with such fatal consequences. Her arguments had so much energy and weight with the Prince, that he was convinced she was in the right ; though, without the least thoughts of altering his sentiments, he entirely sympathized with his sister, and became so much affected with her tenderness, that he could not utter a word.

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CHAP. XII.

AS love makes all people vigilant, the Princess soon missed the beautiful slave out of her apartment; and suspecting that she was gone into the Sopha Chamber, was willing to be assured of it, tho' at the risk of meeting with the Bassa. She accordingly went and found the Prince and his sister in tears: her pride making her conceal her sentiments, she contented herself with making a sign for the slave to withdraw, but nevertheless could not forbear reproaching the Prince with his weakness

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ness in being affected by a slave. The Prince assured her, that the slave having informed him of the cruel manner she had been torn from her relations, he could not help feeling some compassion for the misfortunes of a person who was honoured with her protection and regard. He ended these last words in beholding his most amiable mistress, with eyes full of ardor and tenderness, complaining of all he had suffered, in being thus cruelly restrained from seeing her; and exaggerated to her the violence of his love in such passionate terms, that the credulous Princess, like all other lovers, abandoned her pride, forgot all her suspicions, and was thoroughly persuaded that he spoke from the bottom of his heart. She then declared to him, that she had too great an interest

interest in his person to let him run such frequent hazards for her sake ; but that if he had resolution enough to carry her off, she would furnish him with gold and jewels enough to fit out a vessel, and go with him afterwards wherever he thought fit to conduct her. The Prince, transported with love and joy at hearing a proposal so entirely conformable to his wishes, did not give the Princess time to continue her discourse, but interrupted her with a thousand protestations, that nothing could be difficult that was to be done for her sake ; assuring her at the same time, that no perils should deter him from an enterprize that she was to be the reward of. He then begged her to give him her hand to kiss, as a token of his acceptance of

her offers. The Princess, surpris'd at his confidence, was rather embarrassed, and began to repent of her having opened her mind to him so freely; notwithstanding which, she had not power to refuse him, and offered her hand tho' covered with a handkerchief: he embraced it with such eagerness, that the impression of his lips remained imprinted on it.

The Princess, not accustomed to such liberties, appeared very much offended, and was going to retire; but the Prince testified so much concern for his indiscretion in such tender and respectful terms, that she could not refuse to forgive him; and harkened even with pleasure to all the passionate expressions of

of her lover; conjuring him not to expose his life any further in coming there to see her, and promised to send him every night the captain of the eunuchs, who was her trusty friend, to bring messages from him, and to concert with him the necessary measures for the execution of their design. The Prince, who approved of every thing his beautiful mistress proposed, thanked her for her obliging regard; assuring her, that he should never render himself unworthy of so many favours: and after having agreed upon all matters, they parted.

The Prince was no sooner out of the Seraglio, than he recollected the commission the Bassa had given him, and

and thought of making his sister acquainted with the new misfortunes she was threatened with, but found himself at a great nonplus, when he was informed that the Bassa was waiting for him in his chamber; for he did not chuse to deceive him with false hopes; nor could he think of telling a lye, in saying that he acquainted the beautiful slave with his designs: but fortunately the Bassa soon relieved him from this embarrassment; for, after having talked very obligingly with him concerning the confidence he reposed in him, he shewed him some letters that he had just received from the grand Vizir, which informed him that Bassa Siaoux was marching directly to Constantinople at the head of twenty thousand rebels, who

who had a great number of secret partisans in the City; that all the Seraglio was in the greatest consternation, and he himself, with the weight of affairs, was in the utmost confusion, having an inconstant master to please, who had not the least resolution, and was not even sensible of the imminency of the danger that threatened him; that in this extremity he applied to him, as one of his best friends, and besought him to hold himself in readiness to depart at the first notice he should receive, and repair to the Porte, to assist with his counsel, in case they should be in a condition to benefit by it when he should arrive.

The Bassa, having read these letters, deplored the unfortunate condition of his

his friend, and condemned the grand Signor ; atributing to his incapacity and weakness all the misfortunes that the Ottoman empire was exposed to.

The Prince confessed to him he was not in the least surpris'd that so many disorders should happen in a state where the Prince was but a shadow ; who delegated all his authority to a single minister, who was often a person of no experience, and whom he made accountable for all the misfortunes of the government, and afterwards abandoned to the fury of those who envied him, without giving him time to repair the faults he might have committed, as has been sufficiently evinced by the woeful experience of the many grand Vizirs

Vizirs who had been strangled, one after another, by order of the reigning Sultan.

Happy those empires, interrupted the Bassa, which are governed by a wise Prince, who finds his most agreeable amusement in the study of the public good; who knows how to chuse able ministers, whom he takes care to order and instruct himself; and has so much consideration for their faults, if they should happen to commit any, that he is the first to comfort them, and to give them time to repair them, without abandoning them either to their enemies, or to the unjust censure of the public, who are always sure to blame those who govern. Those, continued he, are the Princes

who are worthy of being served, and not those who think of nothing but self gratification. They made some other reflections on the present posture of affairs, and parted without mentioning a word of the beautiful slave. The Bassa gave orders to fit out two men of war, at the nearest seaport, and disposed of his affairs in such a manner, that he might be ready to embark at the first advices he should receive.

C H A P. XIII.

THE Prince, finding himself alone, was revolving in his mind the agreeable conversation he had with his beautiful mistress. The hopes alone of spending his days with this amiable Princess, afforded him all the pleasures that imagination could form; for whatever danger there might be in carrying her off, his love made the undertaking appear to him quite easy and practicable; thoroughly persuaded that he could not dispose of his life more honourably than in the service of so great a Princess:
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yet, when he recollected all that he owed to the Bassa, who had given him his liberty without ransom; the marks of confidence and friendship that he daily received from him; the infinite number of other favours he was indebted to him for; and that, in recompence for this, he was going to carry off his wife, a woman who was the support of his fortune, the very idea of such black ingratitude filled his soul with horror; and he resolved within himself rather to die than to commit so base an action, so unworthy a person of his birth and fortune. The next moment, he would reproach himself for even having a thought of abandoning a Princess for whom he entertained so violent a passion, and who would even become Christian for his sake. His love

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at length surmounted all other obstacles; and it appeared to him, that the motive of religion, joined to the excess of his passion, were sufficient reasons to excuse him in the eyes of all the world.

These last reflections had perhaps determined him, if the difficulties, that he foresaw in taking his sister with them, had not thrown him into a fresh embarrassment. He was willing to undertake every thing for his amiable Princess, tho' he felt an extreme reluctance to be perfidious to his friend; nor could he, upon any consideration, resolve to abandon a sister that was so dear to him, and who must remain exposed to the furious resentment of the Bassa. He was agitated in this cruel manner, when he received letters from Naples, and a considerable

considerable sum of money, which the Viceroy, who had been acquainted with his misfortunes, had remitted to him to pay his ransom: but so far from rejoicing, he was only afflicted the more by it, seeing that he could no longer have pretence for continuing at Damas; and that he should find himself perhaps constrained to depart without having time either to purchase a ship, or to concert with the chief eunuch about the carrying off the Princess. He imagined nevertheless, that, after having paid his ransom, he might indulge his passion with more freedom; and that, being then under less obligations to the Bassa, he should not be so much censured for carrying away his amiable Princess. As he indulged himself without restraint in any thing
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that flattered his love, he addressed himself to the Bassa, and told him that he was now in a condition to return some part of the obligations that he was under to him, begging of him at the same time to name his ransom, and to order his Kiaia, or superintendent, to go and receive it at a banker's, whom he named. The Bassa, who was very generous, and had a real esteem for the Prince, was rather offended at the proposition, and told him, *he did not know what it was to recede from his word*; that his ransom had been but too dearly paid for in the ill usage he met with whilst his quality was unknown; but that if he would add any thing more to what was past, he could do nothing that would afford him more pleasure, than to remain some time longer with him

him at Damas, at least till he had received further accounts of the revolution at the Porte. The Prince, surpris'd at the generosity of the Bassa, and likewise charmed with his laying him under the obligation of complying with a request which was so entirely conformable to his designs, did not fail making new offers to oblige him to receive his ransom, but received always the same answers.

Tho' the Princess was so convinced of the sincerity of her lover's passion, and had so good an opinion of her self not to apprehend he would share his affections between her and the beautiful slave, yet she felt an interior satisfaction in composing her mind on that head, which induced her to send the

the chief eunuch to the Bassa, to acquaint him that she had been so sensibly touched by his condescension, and was so pleased with his rich presents, that out of gratitude she would no longer oppose his inclinations, but freely consent to deliver up to him the Christian slave whom he had found worthy of his esteem. The Bassa, who really loved the Christian slave, was ravished with the news; and, notwithstanding the important affairs he had upon his hands, went that moment into the Princess's apartment, to return her thanks for so particular a favour; he passed at the the same time a very affectionate compliment on the beautiful slave, taking it for granted that the Prince had informed her of his design, and that the Princess had joined her interest in the affair:

affair: he even assured her, that he had a real regard for her, and that he should distinguish her from all the rest of his women. Julia, who did not comprehend his discourse answered him with her usual modesty; and telling him, if she had been brought up in the Mahometan principles, she should have esteemed it a very great happiness to be destined to a man of his merit and worth; but that her religion prescribed such strict rules on that head, that he need never hope she should alter her sentiments. This unexpected answer put the Bassa in such a passion, that, on leaving her, he threatened to make her happy by force.

Julia, thus perplexed with her brother's affairs, suspected by the Princess,
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and persecuted by the Bassa, and seeing nothing around her but misfortunes, seemingly inevitable, gave herself up to sighs, and tears, the common resource of fine women under affliction. The Bassa acquainted the Prince of this new obligation the Princess had conferred on him, regretting at the same time the obstinate resistance of the slave: giving him to understand, that he was apprehensive his passion would carry him to some extraordinary lengths with her, notwithstanding his disposition was averse to violence. Would you, interrupted the Prince, soil your glory with an action so unworthy of you? Would you, who have always been the protector of virtue, be now so far its enemy as to punish a helpless virgin for preferring her religion and duty to all the advantages

advantages you propose to her? If you love her as much as you profess, you must gain her by respect, assiduity, and perseverance, and never by tyranny. You have all the necessary qualifications to please a fine woman; and if you find yourself disinclined to take those measures, make a noble conquest of your passion—look upon her as an enemy to your repose—a temptation to injure your reputation—dismiss her generously, and send her back. Such a victory will acquire you a thousand times more honour than all you could obtain by force of arms. I should be the most unpardonable man living, replied the Bassa, softened with this discourse, if I should be insensible to the distresses of persons of condition, being descended myself from the family of the

the *Paleologi*, from whom sprang so many Roman Emperors.

I was taken away very young from the arms of my parents, as a tributary child ; and tho' I have but a faint recollection of it, yet it is sufficient to prevent my ever doing any thing unworthy my birth. Happy, continued he, am I to have so faithful a friend, as you, to prevent me from giving way to irregularities, that the custom of a country authorizes : for, among us, we are so confident of the womens condescension, that we think we do them a pleasure in extorting from them by force these favours which an affected modesty (as we imagine) prevents their granting voluntarily.

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This conversation ended in several reciprocal civilities; the Bassa assuring the Prince, that he would endeavour to gain the heart of the beautiful slave by fair means only; confessing to him sincerely, that he could never think of parting with her.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIV.

IN the mean time, the Princess sent every night the chief eunuch to her lover with rich presents, and mysterious flowers, expressive of the sentiments of her heart, according to the custom of Turkey. The Prince, who was not very well versed in the language of flowers, sent her back always the same sort, and in general a myrtle, to denote that his love would last as long as he lived. He had secretly acquainted her with the revolutions of the Porte, and got her to agree to defer for a time the execution of their project; not so much for
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taking advantage of the Bassa's absence, as from the undetermined situation of his mind—transported by the violence of his passion for the Princess—impeded by the difficulties that he saw would attend the delivering his sister, and his not being able to determine on an action so dishonourable towards the generous Bassa—the continual proofs of confidence and esteem that he daily gave him, making him still more and more sensible of the baseness of what he was about to do—In short, he was on the point of despair, and resolved to suffer any extremity rather than betray so worthy a friend : but he was still flattered, by his passion, with the hopes of something or other extraordinary happening ; and that love perhaps would work a miracle in his favour.

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He was ruminating on these things when the Bassa's Kiaia came into his chamber, and informed him that a conspiracy against his master was just discovered; that the Princess his wife was one of the conspirators; and that the chief eunuch was under an arrest, the Bassa being informed, that he went out of the Seraglio every night, and, on his return, always gave an account of his expedition to the Princess: he added, that it being now a rebellious time, they apprehended, not without reason, that some secret emissary from the Porte was concealed in the city, and held private correspondence with the Princess to destroy the Bassa. The Prince, having a wonderful presence of mind, carefully concealed the trouble that this

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news must naturally give him, and sent away the Kiaia, with an assurance that he would wait on the Bassa, to testify how much he thought himself interested in this alarming report. When he found himself alone, he gave a loose to his despair, not in the least doubting but the scheme concerted for carrying off the Princess was discovered; but when he represented to himself the just and severe reproaches he might reasonably expect from the Bassa, that thought alone appeared to him so terrible, that he had formed the resolution, more than once, of avoiding his indignation, by laying violent hands on himself. He thought of a thousand different schemes: sometimes he was for going to the Bassa, to tell him ingenuously the origin, rise, and progress of his passion,

passion, flattering himself that it was better to do so, than wait till the Bassa should be informed of every thing by the chief eunuch, when he would certainly load him with reproaches and outrageous language: again he would condemn what he had but just resolved on, chusing rather to perish alone than to involve the Princess in his ruin. If any person could die of grief and disquiet, there is no reason to suppose the Prince would have survived, he experienced so much of both on this occasion: he spent the greatest part of the day without being able to come to any fixed resolution; and under an affliction, which differed very little from despair, would have undoubtedly remained a long time in that condition, if the Bassa, who always found a great

deal of weight and solidity in the arguments of his friend, had not entered his apartment, to acquaint him of what what had passed. The Prince was naturally disconcerted on seeing him; but the Bassa, who had other thoughts of more importance in his head, did not observe it, but having corroborated to his friend all that the Kiaia before had told him, he added, that the death of the eunuch, who expired on the rack without confessing any thing, troubled him more than all the rest. The Prince, who had suffered the most violent agitations while the Bassa was speaking, resumed his tranquillity a little, on hearing of the eunuch's death, and listened to the remainder of his discourse with less uneasiness. I have no means left, continued the Bassa, than to endeavour
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by stratagem to make some discovery from the Princess herself: the respectful manner in which I have always lived with her, makes it impossible for me to enter on so disagreeable a subject; and the Musti, who is the only Person that could with any degree of propriety interfere in it, has not sense enough, nor could I even repose a sufficient confidence in him with so nice and important a commission; therefore, as the preservation of your faithful friend depends upon it, as you understand perfectly our language, and as the Princess knows no person without the Seraglio, I have taken it into my head, that if you would, out of friendship to me, undertake to manage the affair with that delicacy of mind I know you possess, you might perhaps discover the whole truth.

truth. The Prince, both surpris'd and charmed with so unexpected a proposition, asked him, smiling, if he should not be apprehensive of his being smitten by the charms of this Princess; seeing, that in love affairs we are often deceived by our best friends. The Princess, replied the Bassa, is a personage incapable of inspiring you with any thing more than respect: her pride, and the coldness of her disposition, of which I have had a long experience, would make me easy on that head, even tho' I had not been so well acquainted with the peculiarity of your sentiments with respect to the ladies, which are limited to esteem alone, and never amount to desire. I will not promise you, replied the Prince, that I should have the same insensibility for every other

other person as for the beautiful slave. It does not signify, replied the Bassa, if the Princess should ever change her sentiments, I should rather it were in your favour than of any other person in the world. Upon those conditions, rejoined the Prince, smiling, I agree to act the part you proposed. The Bassa then resuming a serious air, explained to him the importance of the affair——acquainted him with the confusion which the imprisonment of the chief eunuch had occasioned in the Seraglio, where his death was not yet known—the visible surprise and astonishment that appeared in the Princess's countenance, and several other circumstances, that it was necessary he should be informed of, to enable him to acquit himself of his commission : after which he made him
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take with him a dress suitable to the character he was to assume; and ordered one of the eunuchs to conduct him secretly into the Seraglio, and to obey him implicitly in every particular.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

THOUGH the Princess was thoroughly convinced, that the Bassa durst not attempt any thing against her person, yet she was extremely chagrined, that her intrigue should be discovered, and all her hopes frustrated: but when she thought of her lover's being exposed to the vengeance of the Bassa, she was in the utmost despair. This last reflection roused her, and inspired her with so much resolution, notwithstanding the imprisonment of the eunuch, that she waited with the greatest impatience for an ex-

amination concerning the affair, by the Bassa's order ; proposing before hand, to invalidate whatever the eunuch might advance against the Prince, and to take the whole entirely upon herself, if she should find it necessary, without regarding whether she appeared innocent or criminal, so that she could acquit her lover. Her pride, which on any other occasion would have blazed out against any one who should presume to propose her appearing before the Mufti, entirely forsook her: and as soon as they informed her, that this metropolitan, according to their law, required to speak with her, with a docility not common to a Princess of the Ottoman blood, she repaired to the Sopha Chamber. She had put herself in mourning the day before ; which dress, though suitable to her state
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of mind, gave such an additional lustre to her natural charms, that the pretended Mufti thought he had never seen her look so beautiful before; and whatever resolutions he might have made of not discovering himself at first, he had much ado to maintain the character of a judge, in presence of a person who had so absolute an authority over his inclinations. However, he asked her, in a severe tone, if it was true, that, in contempt and opposition to the commandments of the great Mahomet, she had fallen in love with a Christian, to whom she sent the chief eunuch every night, with flowers and other presents. The Princess, disconcerted at this question, concluded the eunuch had discovered all; and answered haughtily, that it was unjust to make a crime of
a simple

a simple curiosity; but that if there were any harm in it, she alone was worthy to be punished, since the Christian was nowise culpable. More so than you imagine, interrupted the pretended Mufti, for he has had the presumption to acknowledge that he loved you, that his passion should last for life, and that all the tortures upon earth should not constrain him to alter his sentiments. The Princess, touched with this declaration, which seemed to her to coincide so exactly with the disposition of her lover, became very tenderly affected: and the pretended Mufti, being no longer able to behold his lovely mistress in affliction, threw off his disguise, and discovered himself to be no other than her passionate admirer, instead of the severe judge she had taken him for.

This

This agreeable alteration appeared so unaccountable to the Princess, that she had a thousand different thoughts successively crowding upon her imagination: she felt but an imperfect joy at first, occasioned by seeing her lover thus disguised, and run all those risks to see her; fearing he should be surpris'd when he attempted to get away. The Prince did not let her remain long in this racking uncertainty, but acquainting her of the death of the chief eunuch, the Bassa's discomposure, and the manner in which he had engaged him to take upon him a commission so surprising to her, and so fortunate to him.

The Princess, relieved by this agreeable recital from the cruel anxiety she had

had been in, passed a thousand encomiums on the wit and ingenuity of the Prince, who, by his admirable address, had gained such an ascendancy over the Bassa, as to be intrusted by him with a commission of so delicate a nature, and of so much importance. They then gave each other a reciprocal account of their affairs, of all their thoughts, and especially of the mutual confidence they had of each other's constancy. The Prince, to give her a convincing proof of his, informed her, that the beautiful slave was his sister; and made her acquainted with several other particulars; which gave so much the more pleasure to his amiable Princess, as by that means she became satisfactorily convinced, that he could have no such secret inclination for her as she at first suspected;

ted : and then, the features of the beautiful slave she found had a perfect resemblance to those of the Prince, and could not conceive how she came not to perceive it before. Their conversation was very long, lively, and tender. Having concerted measures for the accomplishment of their design, and agreed upon what report the pretended Mufti should make to the Bassa, he withdrew to give an account of his commission. He found him in his chamber waiting, for him, with the greatest impatience. The Prince assured him, that he need not give himself an further uneasiness about the Princess's designs, as she had never the least thoughts of entering into any conspiracy against him; that the frequent excursions of the chief eunuch were only to confer with a Christian,

who

who was going to his own country, and who had taken upon him the charge of some diamonds she had a mind to send by him, in order to have them set, as at present they were useless to her. He added some other circumstances equally probable; and, by his arguments, so entirely restored the Bassa's serenity of mind, that he promised to retain a perpetual remembrance of the eminent service he had done him.

During this time, the Bassa, though very much enamoured, finding the advice of his friend so consonant to his own natural disposition and generosity, asked pardon of the beautiful slave for his former behaviour; and not thinking that alone sufficient, he
 assigned

assigned her a separate apartment, with women to attend her; became very indulgent and assiduous about her, and made her presents every day; which he continued to do in a manner so engaging, that she could not by any means refuse them: and gave her, in short, every proof of esteem that she could have expected from the most accomplished Christian lover. A behaviour so respectful, and so different from what the Turks generally practise towards their women, could not but increase the esteem that the beautiful Christian had already entertained for the Bassa, and embarrassed her much more than his former threats and menaces had done.

C H A P.

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CHAPTER

C H A P. XVI.

THE Princess, who repented of having parted with the beautiful slave, as she found she was her lover's sister, and being desirous to repair the injury she had done her, paid her a visit; and professed so much friendship for her, that Julia, who imagined, till now, that she was quite out of favour, from her having given so little countenance to her passion for the Prince, was not less surpris'd for this sudden change of behaviour in the Princess, than she was with that of
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the Bassa. At first, she attributed all these civilities to her being reinstated in his favour; but, the Princess giving her to understand that she had been informed of her birth, she was no longer at a loss to guess at the true cause of her obliging behaviour, nor of whom she had learned the secret, though the fatal consequences she apprehended from her brother's amour gave her perpetual uneasiness for his safety, and exhibited to her view an inevitable train of misfortunes, though she could not but sympathize with so noble a passion, any more than she could forbear admiring the noble assurance of the Princess, who endeavoured to persuade her, with that confidence so peculiar to lovers, that things would soon turn out to their advantage,

advantage, though without any other certainty than what love had afforded her.

Notwithstanding which, she was not deceived in her conjectures. The Bassa was informed about this time, by a courier from the Porte, that the Grand Signor, on hearing the revolvers approached Constantinople with a design of placing one of his brothers on the throne, to save his life had been reduced to the necessity of absconding, attended with several armed domestics, to the place where his brothers and children were, with a resolution of killing them all; but that the eunuchs, preinformed of his barbarous intentions, opposed his entrance, with the assistance of several boftangis,
and

and detained him; that two days afterwards he was deposed, and Sultan Solyman his brother proclaimed Emperor in his room; that the Grand Vizir had just been strangled, and Bassa Sia succeeded him; that the Caimaican, the grand treasurer, and several other considerable personages, had fallen a sacrifice to the fury of the rebels, who had massacred them, after having first obliged them to tell where their riches were hid, by putting them to the most horrible tortures; that the new Vizir began most cruel persecutions against the creatures of his predecessor in having already caused several to be strangled.

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The Bassa of Damas, who had been an intimate friend of the deceased grand Vizir, was so troubled on hearing these terrible accounts, that he was for some time speechless; when the Prince, coming accidentally into his apartment, found him in this condition, and was naturally surpris'd to see him in so profound a reverie. Upon which the Bassa, who always repos'd a great confidence in him, acquainting him with the great revolutions that had happened at the Porte, and confessed to him ingenuously, that he look'd upon himself as a man irretrievably lost, not doubting but that an order had been given, from the first day of the late Grand Signor's abdication, to send his head to the new Sultan. The Prince would willingly have comforted him; and endeavour'd to persuade

suade him, that he ought to expect better usage than the rest of the deceased Vizir's friends: but, finding that his grief rendered him incapable of receiving any consolation, he told him, that he could not conceive what reasons a Mussulman could have for giving up his head so readily on the least demand being made for it; that so ridiculous a submission was excusable in an ignorant and superstitious Turk, but that a man of reason and understanding, as he was, ought to consider, that his lawful sovereign was in irons; that the new Sultan having no other authority, than what a rebellious rabble had given him, he might, without being in the least deficient in his duty, dispense with obeying him, and take his measures without embarrassing himself

self with all the orders they might chuse to send. Which arguments seemed to bear some weight with the Bassa: but he laid before his friend the great difficulties that must attend taking up arms against so formidable a power. That is not what I mean, replied the Prince, but since your honour, nor your conscience does not oblige you to obey the new Sultan; to whom you have never made any promise of fidelity, why will you not be content, and lead a happy life the rest of your days? You have agreed with me, that an honest man might be saved by the Christian religion; you have large ships ready, and riches at your disposal, what hinders you from avoiding the persecution of your enemies, and repairing to Italy,

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where you would be sure to meet with all manner of pleasure and satisfaction? Your merit is already known there, and you might be assured of always having a faithful friend, who would not fail publishing your generosity, and who will share his fortune with you. The Bassa, staggered with so solid a discourse, embraced his friend, and laid before him several other difficulties: but the Prince, to whom love had given an uncommon eloquence, represented to him, in such lively colours, the delights of Italy, the regard they would have for him there, and the pleasures they would relish in a country where he would neither be exposed to the malice of a grand Vizir, nor to the injuries that might be done him with a weak and unexpected

unexpected master, that, in short, the Bassa seemed at last persuaded thoroughly by his arguments; when the Prince, who knew his weakness with respect to women, acquainted him, that if he divorced the Princess, he had a handsome sister, whom he should marry; and assured him before hand, that he would not find her less beautiful than the slave he was so enamoured with. The Bassa was so affected with his promise, and the zeal that the Prince testified for his service, that he declared to him, with tears in his eyes, that he would submit entirely to his opinion and advice; two days after which he divorced the Princess, declaring in the presence of the Mufti, that never having been happy enough to please her, he thereby quit himself of

his obligation ; and pretending to have received orders to repair immediately to the Porte, forthwith embarked all his most valuable effects.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

AS soon as he had made public his intentions of leaving Damas, a number of his women requested they might be permitted to go with him; but he begged of them to dispense with it, giving them to understand that he had too great a regard for their persons to carry them to Constantinople, at a time when they sought all the finest women in the empire to compose the new Seraglio of the reigning Sultan; and that he should only take the beautiful

tiful slave with him to present to that monarch. For tho' the Bassa seemed very well satisfied with the promise his friend had made him of his sister, he could not think of leaving the beautiful slave behind him ; but afraid of giving offence, as he had accepted of his offer, after having informed him with what artifice he had disengaged himself from the importunities of his women, pretended that he had found himself under an absolute necessity of taking the beautiful slave with him, protesting that she should be free on their arrival in Italy. The Prince, who guessed at his thoughts, approved of his design, and advised him to take as many Christian slaves with him as possible, who would be so many emissaries to publish his generosity

generosity all over Europe. He added, that it would be prudent to take the Princess with them also, for fear she should raise a sedition, and put an obstacle to their embarkation, in case she suspected their design; which the Bassa agreeing to, all the necessary orders were given for their departure.

While the Princess, whose mind was entirely occupied with love, was charmed at first with her freedom, as she might with the greatest facility dispose of herself to her lover; but thinking again, that the Bassa would never have presumed to divorce her without orders from the Porte, concluded that they had determined to ruin her; and that she was without doubt destined for
some

some of the favourites of the new Emperor her brother: which conjecture, seeming a very reasonable one to her, caused her fresh uneasiness; fearing it might overset the scheme she had concerted with her lover: but when a eunuch told her, in the name of the Bassa, to be ready to embark the day following for Constantinople, where he had orders to conduct her, it confirmed her suspicions; and, nothing appearing to her more insufferable than to be separated from her lover, without hopes of ever seeing him again, she abandoned herself to despair, and would certainly have formed some violent resolution, had it not been for the hopes she had of seeing him before she departed; and if deprived of this comfort

comfort. she had determined to throw herself into the sea.

The beautiful slave, who had received the same orders, and was already acquainted with the confusion there was in the Seraglio, as well as the design of presenting her to the grand Signor, recollecting every circumstance of the Bassa's behaviour to her, particularly the late protestation he had made of loving her as long as he lived, and his promise of never doing any thing that should in the least offend her, together with the good opinion she had formed of his honour and veracity, made it more difficult for her to account for his altering his mind, and receding from his promise in so short a time: and losing all hopes of ever seeing her brother again, or of being ransomed

by him, she gave herself up to despair. She was indulging herself in these melancholy reflections, when they came to conduct her on board one of the ships destined for their voyage. The Princess, who had embarked the same day, had naturally an inconceivable consolation, under her affliction, to meet with the beautiful slave; flattering herself, perhaps, that she might, through her means hear something of her lover, while Julia on her side was equally comforted; and, embracing each other, they were both of them so softened, that they were not able to utter a syllable.

The Prince, who had not been able hitherto to inform either the Princess, or his sister, of the affair, judging what affliction

affliction they would both be in, had taken care to be beforehand with them, while the Bassa was giving his orders; but was so affected to see them in such sorrow, that he had scarce power to inform them of the Bassa's resolution, and the agreeable alteration in their affairs, when beholding the Princess, with eyes expressing the greatest tenderness, he addressed her in the most affectionate terms, saying, It is to you, Princess, we are indebted for our good fortune; 'twas your charms inspired me with eloquence to prevail on the Bassa to come into our measures, and to resolve to undertake the accomplishment of our design. No people sure ever passed, in so short a time, from so deplorable a condition to so perfect a joy. The Prince

was

was not so entirely taken up with his beautiful mistress, as to omit acquainting his sister, that he had engaged to marry her to the Bassa as soon as he should have embraced Christianity; adding, that he had reason to hope she would not oppose it. Julia, who was acquainted with the illustrious birth of the Bassa, gave her brother to understand, by a modest and respectful silence, that she would do nothing contrary to his inclinations. The Bassa arriving a short time after, and the wind being fair, the two ships set sail, and every thing seemed to promise a prosperous voyage. The Prince, who all along observed the great inclination the Bassa had for his sister, made a proposal of taking the Princess under his protection; which

which the Bassa consented to without the least difficulty, being already acquainted with the coldness of her disposition; declaring at the same time to his friend, that nothing would afford him more satisfaction than to hear of her changing her sentiments. The Prince, being no longer under restraint, had the pleasure, during the rest of the voyage, of being continually in company with his amiable mistress. It is easy to judge how much the Princess, who had only been accustomed to the attendance of disagreeable black eunuchs, must be sensible of the favours and assiduity of so comely a Prince.

Their navigation was very prosperous for the first four days; but the Bassa,

to

to avoid being known by any Turkish vessels they might meet with, thinking it advisable to hoist Algerine colours, was saluted, when he least thought of it, by a broadside from a large ship that was cruising in those seas. The Prince jumped up upon deck to animate the ship's company by his example; but finding it was a French man of war, he went into the boat, and spoke to Count Sepeville, who commanded her; and having acquainted him with the quality of the people who were on board, the Count sent his lieutenant to examine them; and, finding his report to agree with the Prince's, after shewing him many civilities, sent an officer to beg pardon of the ladies for the rough salutation of their cannon, and dismissed them.

them. They continued their voyage without any thing remarkable happening, only the Bassa's passion was become so violent, by the care that Julia had been pleased to take of him, that he addressed himself one day to the Prince, and conjured him to dispense with the marriage that he had proposed to him; since, being forbid by the Christian laws to marry any more than one woman, he had determined to prefer Julia to all the Princesses on earth. The Prince, embracing him, told him that he should have the slave, and be his brother-in-law notwithstanding: telling him, at the same time, that this beautiful person was his sister; at which the Bassa expressed an inconceivable joy, especially on hearing, that in Europe, where
 he

he proposed spending the rest of his days, they made so great a difference between women of noble descent and those that had not that advantage.

While the Prince, who was not less enamoured than the Bassa, and who had tasted all the pleasures imaginable at the thoughts of his going to be united to one of the finest Princesses the world could afford, suddenly reflected that the Viceroy of Naples, on his arrival there, finding he had given over all thoughts of marrying his daughter, might be an impediment to his happiness, and prevent his marriage to the Princess. These thoughts alarmed him so much, that from that moment he altered the design he had of going
to

to Naples; and found an opportunity of entertaining the Bassa with the pleasures of Venice, and the liberties they enjoyed there, which often induce sovereign Princes to prefer the abode of this beautiful city to their own territories where they are masters; and, speaking in the most advantageous terms of the wisdom of this republic, advised him to go and reside there some time. The Bassa, who suffered himself to be entirely guided by his friend, agreeing to it without hesitation, they continued their voyage directly, and arrived in a short time afterwards.

The Prince having acquainted the Senate of the arrival of the Bassa, and the resolution he had formed of becoming

coming a Christian, they sent two
 Senators to receive him, and prepared
 a magnificent feast to divert him.
 But the Bassa, impatient with love,
 beseeched them to defer it, expressing
 a great desire as well as the Princess
 to be baptized first; which ceremony
 the Patriarch insisted on performing.
 Immediately after, they celebrated
 the nuptials with the greatest pomp
 and magnificence imaginable. The
 Prince, hearing that the Viceroy was
 dead, immediately repaired to Naples
 with the Princess, accompanied by
 the Bassa and his sister, where he
 endeavoured, by his tenderneſs, to reta-
 liate for the mortification he had in
 not being able to place a crown on the
 head of this great Princess; and where
 the

the Bassa and his beautiful spouse
began to relish the joys of matrimonial
happinefs.

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